



# Falcon Family News

July 2016



## PHOTO ACCESS FOR PARENTS -

The U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs office provides command information to the installation and the public. One of the ways we do this is through social media venues such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. All information provided is official, but there is also fun stuff on there too. Did you know you can download photos from our Facebook page for free?

[Official USAFA Facebook site](#)  
[Official USAFA Twitter site](#)  
[Official USAFA Instagram site](#)

We also want your Academy photos. Upload them to Instagram using #YourAcademy. You might see it on Facebook and Twitter. If you have any questions, please call the Public Affairs office at (719) 333-7731.

You can also access free photos on the Academy's website site at:  
<http://www.usafa.edu/cadetFocus/cadetPhotos/index.cfm>  
 Just select your cadet's class year!

**GOLD PROP AND WINGS** - The Cadet Site Picture states that Cadets will wear standard chrome plated prop and wings on flight caps upon recognition. Direct descendants of Army Air Corps, Women Air Force Service Pilots, or parent USAF Academy graduate are authorized to wear gold prop and wings.

**ACADEMY APP AVAILABLE** – Do you have an iTunes or Android enabled device? Scan one of the QR codes below with your barcode scanner to download the new Air Force Academy App. Get the latest Academy news, photos, videos, and more.

[www.tricare.mil/Plans/Eligibility/DEERS/milConnect/Proof.aspx](http://www.tricare.mil/Plans/Eligibility/DEERS/milConnect/Proof.aspx)



Or use the following QR codes with your cellphone to get access to the app.



iTunes



Android

## CLASS STATISTICS (as of 30 June 2016)

Class Year	Men	Women	Total
2016	10	2	12
2017	772	233	1005
2018	807	223	1030
2019	816	281	1097
2020	826	342	1168
<b>WING</b>	<b>3231</b>	<b>1081</b>	<b>4312</b>

54 International Cadets are counted in the Cadet Wing Strength, but do not count in the Fiscal year Strength.

**U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo.** -- More than 1,100 young adults said goodbye to their parents and families June 30 and took their first military steps toward becoming commissioned officers.



In all, 1,168 appointees to the Air Force Academy were scheduled to begin Basic Cadet Training, a rigorous six-week mental and physical training program designed to introduce them to military life.

Kristen McKenney, 17, is from Orlando, Florida. She stood in the cadet-processing line with her parents, David and Lori McKenney.

"This is kind of surreal," she said. "It's weird that it's finally here."

Kristen earned an ROTC scholarship but applied to the Academy.

"I just wanted to be here," she said. "My parents made sure this is what I really wanted to do."

David is a 1992 Academy graduate. He and wife Lori are both Air Force veterans.

Lori said Kristen is mentally and physically prepared to be a cadet.

"It's a tough day, but she's ready," she said. "My immediate thought is 'Oh my gosh. My daughter is going into the military.' I'm very proud of the effort she took to get here."

Kristen graduated from West Orange High School. She was recognized for her academic achievements as one of several Super Scholars in Orange County.

Bradlee Ang, 18, is from Chesapeake, Virginia. His father, Lee Ang, is a retired Navy lieutenant commander. He said his dad's military experience, and a visit to the Academy, reduced his unease about BCT.

"I was pretty nervous but meeting other cadets put me at ease," he said. "It's just nice to finally be here. Everything I did in high school paid off."

Bradlee graduated from Oscar Smith High School. He was class president, and a track and field athlete.

Bradlee's mom, Victoria Ang, said her emotions were "bittersweet."

"I want what's best for him but I'm going to miss the hell out of him," she said. "Just his presence around the house. [Getting here] is the tip of the iceberg. I look forward to watching him grow into his potential."

Emily Walbridge, 18, is from Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. What was on her mind as she stood in line with her parents, Jim and Ellen?

"The bus ride, getting yelled at, losing my hat," she said.

Emily's older sister, Katelyn, is a cadet third class.

"Emily is strong and determined," Katelyn said. "Her work ethic will help her greatly during the upcoming year. The best advice I can give her is to stay positive and not give up. Emily can accomplish anything. BCT will not be a problem."

Emily ranked seventh in her class with a 4.0 GPA and participated in various leadership positions in her student government, including class president, the Rotary Interact Club and the 4-H Club.

Ellen said she is equally proud of her daughters. "I'm really glad they chose a different route," she said. "I'm excited for Emily for stepping out of the box."

### **Academy leadership**

Lt. Gen. Michelle Johnson, Academy superintendent; Brig. Gen. Andrew Armacost, dean of the faculty; and Brig. Gen. Stephen Williams, commandant of cadets, spoke to groups of trainees before they were taken to the cadet area via bus.

"Respect everyone and the talents they bring," Johnson said. "Here, you will elevate our performance by respecting the boundaries and humanity of all around you. You are becoming part of the profession of arms. You're part of a great, elite team starting today."

Brig. Gen. Armacost said Academy life will be challenging but worth the trainees' hard work. "It will be a challenging and rich experience as you prepare to lead our Air Force and become leaders of character for our nation," he said. "You've done great things to get here -- as students, as leaders, as athletes, and as members of your communities. You've proven yourself over and over again, and we're thrilled you're here. Congratulations -- it's a huge day for you. We're honored to have you here as part of the Long Blue Line."

Williams praised the personal tenacity that brought the trainees to the Academy.

"First and foremost, every one of these appointees overcame huge challenges, the first of many was to get here," he said. "The same resolve, grit and dedication it took them to get here will benefit them through their cadet careers; help them as they transfer from civilian appointees to Academy cadets and eventually, Air Force officers. I'll be thrilled to watch them transfer from civilian appointees into the profession of arms."



### **Basic Cadets Who Decide to Form 34 or are put on Admin Turnback (Medical/Personal Reasons):**

Parents please remember that if your basic cadet decides to leave it is their decision as the Active Duty Service Member and an adult. Each basic cadet is given the opportunity to call their parents when they decide to Form 34 or are put on Admin Turnback if they choose to. In addition, you will not be given status updates unless there is an emergency and your basic cadet wishes to inform you of what's going on. Basic cadet leadership counsels the basic cadets if they are thinking of leaving to ensure that is truly their wish or perhaps it is a quick decision based on a bad day or they are home sick, etc. Be patient, when your basic cadet gets closer to out-processing and is finalizing their travel plans, they will be allowed to call home.

**Field Day:** Basic Cadets from the class of 2020 competed in the Air Force Academy's Field Day. An annual event that tests the teamwork and athletic skills of basic cadets. The competitive activity marked the halfway point of Basic Cadet Training for more than 1,000 basic cadets and featured a long distance run, tug-of-war and other relays.



**Doolie Day Out (DDO):** (23 Jul 16) On DDO the cadets get to meet their sponsor families. The sponsor families pick the cadets up around 0930 or so and take them back to their house for the day to return at 6pm. This is the day your cadet will be able to call you during BCT. Only registered sponsor families with assignment letters will be permitted to enter the pick-up area. They must have their assignment letter and dash pass. If for some reason someone makes it all the way in without these documents, the cadet will be reported and there will be serious consequences for the cadet upon return. The cadets will be briefed about being released only to the family they are assigned to for the day. Your cadet will be able to talk with you on this day.

If you are local you must become your cadet's sponsor to be allowed to pick them up on Doolie Day Out.

Parents from out-of-state should **NOT** come to town in hopes of spending Doolie Day Out with their son/daughter on this day. Doolie Day Out is for sponsor families to get to know their sponsored cadets.

The appropriate time for parents to come is on Parents' Weekend (always Labor Day Weekend). They may then meet their son/daughter's sponsor families if they so desire.

**Acceptance Day Parade** (9 Aug 16, 9:00 am): If you are close, you can spend 1 or 2 hours with your cadet after the parade. This is a parade officially accepting the Freshman (C4Cs) into the cadet wing. You must stay on campus and suggest you bring a picnic lunch or you will spend all your time in line at Subway, WingZone, or Godfather's Pizza in Arnold Hall. Appointees will not be allowed cell phones so plan on meeting up on the parade field after the parade. Shoulder boards have to be put on by the Cadets, but parents are allowed on the field to observe. To help you find your cadet, the squadrons are organized from your left to your right. Cadets squadrons 1-10 followed by squadrons 11-20. To the right of the center are Cadet squadron(s) 21-39, followed by 31-40.

**Family Emergencies:** Feel free to contact your cadet's AOC (Commander) or AMT (enlisted superintendent) in case of family emergencies. You can also contact me Toll Free at 1-877-268-3383, (719) 333-3828, if you need their phone numbers or need me to contact them for you. The commanders really do try and work out emergencies as quickly as possible.

**Communicating with Your Cadet during Basic Cadet Training (BCT):** BCT consists of two parts – 1<sup>st</sup> BCT, which is conducted in the Cadet Area, and 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, conducted in Jacks Valley. Mail is the only way to communicate during this time. Mail those letters and cards often. Cadets won't be allowed phone calls and the letters from family and friends mean so much to them. Suggest you put your cadet's BCT squadron letter after their name to help get the mail to the cadet faster. Encourage them to hang in there. It gets better, and once the Fall semester starts they will have e-mail and should have their cell phones full time. Cadets will also have time to write letters during BCT as well, and are encouraged to do so by their trainers. If your cadet is thinking about quitting they will be allowed to call home so you can talk to them and maybe give them encouragement to stay.

**Jacks Valley:** This is the location of the second part of BCT. The cadets are sent on “Deployment” to a tent city where they learn combat skills, train on the obstacle course, confidence course, and assault course, and participate in team building exercises. This is a rewarding, but difficult part of BCT. Encourage your cadet to get as physically fit as they can to prepare for BCT. Drink lots of water before coming to Colorado Springs as the high altitude is very hard on people who aren’t used to it. Water will help keep the cadet hydrated and hopefully keep the headaches down due to altitude sickness.

**Academy Grads Going to the Summer Olympics –** Air Force Academy graduate Cale Simmons celebrated the Fourth of July by claiming a spot on the U.S. Olympic Team.

He earned a place on the Team USA pole-vault squad after finishing second at the Olympic Trials at Hayward Field in Eugene, Oregon.

The 2013 Academy graduate entered the competition on the opening height, clearing 17'8½" on his first attempt. He cleared 18'0½" and 18'4½" on second attempts, securing the runner-up finish by making the 18'6½" bar on his first try.



Simmons will be joined on the Team USA pole-vault squad by Sam Kendricks, who won the national meet with a height of 19'4¾", and Logan Cunningham, who placed third with a height of 18'4½". The Air Force pole vault squad finished sixth with a clearance of 18'4½".



Dylan Bell, the most recent Academy graduate competing, cleared the opening bar of 17'8½" on his first attempt. He cleared the second bar, 18'0½", on his third try, while making 18'4½" on his second attempt.

Joey Uhle, a 2015 Academy graduate, was unable to clear the opening height of 17'8½". After a narrow miss on his first attempt, Uhle's pole snapped during his second try. He was able to retry that attempt, but unable to clear his final two tries at that height.



### **Cadet Combat Conditioning Team -**

The Air Force Academy's Cadet Combat Conditioning Team debuted June 30 during the 2016 ESPN Battlefrog College Championship.

Former cadet 2nd Lt. Sandra Suito, Cadets 2nd Class Parker Gray and Matthew Blackburn, and Cadet 3rd Class Julia Corton, competed in the Battlefrog season 2 championship over spring break.

The Battlefrog College Championship is a timed obstacle course race of 20 obstacles, run by teams of four in a relay. Two teams run simultaneously, with the fastest team advancing to a three-day single elimination tournament.

The Academy was invited to compete in the inaugural season, but competition coincided with Recognition.

“We were proud to have the Air Force Academy team on the field for this year’s BattleFrog College Championship,” said Tom Davis, ESPN executive producer. “They were great representatives of the Air Force and the Air Force Academy, and held their own against the best collegiate obstacle course racing teams in the nation.”

Results of the competition have not been announced but in the first episode, the Academy took eighth place out of 16 teams.

The Military Academy won the competition in 2015, and posted the two fastest times on record.

The tournament also featured teams from Virginia Tech, Ole Miss, Virginia, Syracuse, Texas, Wisconsin, Illinois, Florida, Colorado, Georgia Tech, Georgia State, Arizona State and Eastern Kentucky.

The Academy entered the competition with several advantages due to their conditioning and training at altitude. The cadet area sits 7,200 above sea level, but the competition was held in Atlanta, which sits at an oxygen-rich 1,050 feet above sea level.

Corton, a Pittsburgh native, said the altitude difference between the Academy and her hometown showed her the advantage of conditioning at high altitude -- an advantage she carried into the Battlefrog competition.

“When I go home, I can breathe a lot easier, run a lot longer,” she said. “I can work out with a higher intensity without getting winded, versus here I feel like my lungs are bleeding. That’s nice.”

### **PREP SCHOOL INFORMATION**

Below is the Point of Contact for questions for our Preparatory School Candidate parents.

Central Email for Prep School Questions:  
[PrepInfo@usafa.edu](mailto:PrepInfo@usafa.edu)

Website: [www.usafa.edu/?catname=Prep School](http://www.usafa.edu/?catname=Prep+School)

Mail: HQ USAFA/PL  
5229 Cedar Drive, Suite 117  
USAF Academy, CO 80840-3100

### **HELPFUL WEBSITES and POCs -**

#### **Parent Information Link:**

[www.usafa.af.mil/Leadership/CadetDevelopment/ParentClub.aspx](http://www.usafa.af.mil/Leadership/CadetDevelopment/ParentClub.aspx)

#### **Graduation Information Link:**

[www.usafa.edu/superintendent/graduation/index.cfm?catname=graduation](http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/graduation/index.cfm?catname=graduation)

#### **USAFA’s Public Calendar Link:**

(Managed by the Association of Graduates.)  
[www.usafa.org/Calendar/Events](http://www.usafa.org/Calendar/Events)

#### **2016-2017 Academic Calendar Link:**

The Academic Calendar for 2016-2017 has been approved and you can find it at the following link:  
[http://www.usafa.af.mil/Portals/21/documents/About\\_Us\\_Docs/2016\\_2017\\_Final%20ApprovedMay252016.pdf?ver=2016-05-25-101000-790&timestamp=1464185360408](http://www.usafa.af.mil/Portals/21/documents/About_Us_Docs/2016_2017_Final%20ApprovedMay252016.pdf?ver=2016-05-25-101000-790&timestamp=1464185360408)

#### **Curriculum Handbook:**

(which also outlines summer programs available for cadets in what year):  
[www.usafa.edu/df/df/curriculum/CHB.pdf](http://www.usafa.edu/df/df/curriculum/CHB.pdf)

#### **Cadet Clubs:**

(just a listing of clubs and POCs, not a schedule of where they may be):

[www.usafa.edu/cadetFocus/cadetClubs/](http://www.usafa.edu/cadetFocus/cadetClubs/)

#### **Cadet Survival Guide:**

[www.usafasupport.com/home.html](http://www.usafasupport.com/home.html)

#### **Cadet Media:**

[www.usafasupport.com/cadet-activities/cadet-media](http://www.usafasupport.com/cadet-activities/cadet-media)

#### **Admissions:**

(parents can help us recruit future cadets):  
[www.academyadmissions.com/](http://www.academyadmissions.com/)

#### **Sports Schedules:**

[www.goairforcefalcons.com/calendar/events/](http://www.goairforcefalcons.com/calendar/events/)

#### **Base Cadet Treats (Flower Shop):**

(719) 472-8589  
[petalsnblooms.com](http://petalsnblooms.com)

#### **Gift Cards order phone numbers:**

Cadet Store (Base Exchange) (719) 472-1953  
10 FSS: (719) 472-7930

#### **Hometown News Release (must have CAC card):**

<https://jhns.release.dma.mil/public>

#### **Life Touch photos:**

POC: Sherri Peloso  
1 (800) 426-9533 extension 128 or 241  
<http://lifetouch.com/>

## UPCOMING DATES:

17 Jul 16	<u>Prep School</u> – Prior Service report (in-processing)
20 Jul 16	<u>Prep School</u> - Direct Entry report (in-processing)
23 Jul 16	Doolie Day Out (Sponsors pick up approx. 8:00 am to 7:00 pm (Cadets can have cell phones that day)
24 Jul 16	March out to Jacks Valley (8:00 am)
3 Aug 16	March back from Jacks Valley (8:00 am)
6 Aug 16	3 <sup>rd</sup> Summer Session Ends
6 Aug 16	Cadet Wing Returns by 7:00 pm
8 Aug 16 (tentative)	Laptops Issued
9 Aug 16 (tentative)	Freshman E-mail should be up on e-mail
9 Aug 16	Acceptance Parade (9:00 am) (2020 class are allowed cell phones)
10 Aug 16	2018 Class Commitment Dinner (time TDB)
12 Aug 16	New Semester Classes Start
15 Aug 16	USAFA/FMF will accept Scholarship Checks
2-5 Sep 16	<u><a href="#">Parents' Weekend 2016</a></u>
22-27 Nov 16	Cadet Thanksgiving Break (after LMD). Return by 7:00 pm on 27 Nov 16
TBD	Prep School Thanksgiving Break (released at 9:00 am)
12-16 Dec 16	Cadet Winter Finals
17 Dec 16 – 2 Jan 17	Cadet Winter Break (Cadet Wing returns 7:00 pm on 4 Jan 17)
TBD	Prep School Winter Break (released at 0900/return by 7 pm on TBD)
22 - 24 Feb 17	Character & Leadership Symposium (NCLS)
9 - 11 Mar 17	Recognition for Class of 2020
24 Mar 17 – 2 Apr 17	Cadet Spring Break (Cadet Wing returns 7:00 pm on 2 Apr 17)
TBD	Prep School Spring Break (Returns TDB)
15-19 May 17	Cadet Spring Finals
24 May 17	2017 Graduation

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

**Marie**

ROSE MARIE NIKOVITS

Parents' Liaison

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